

THE PRIZE CUCUMBER

By M. QUAD

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On the 15th day of June of a certain year, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, when he was hoeing in his garden, Deacon Amos Gray straightened up to rest his back and then there decided that he would marry the Widow Spooner. He had been a widower and she a widow for three years. She lived near him in the village, and they had known each other before marriage.

Her garden needed hoeing. He set about it. It gave him a sort of sense of proprietorship. It was her garden now, but after awhile it would be his. He had been at work for a quarter of an hour when the widow came to the open kitchen door and discovered him and called out:

"Why, deacon, this is truly good of you. I was just wondering who I could get to hoe my garden."

When he had been at work an hour the deacon uttered a few grunts and sighs and came to anchor on the step. The widow was looking fine for a woman of forty. She was robust and in good health. The services of a doctor wouldn't be needed for many a long day unless she fell down the cellar stairs. And she looked like a woman who would esteem it a privilege to build the kitchen fire every morning for four weeks after the groundhog had come out and seen his shadow. Yes, she was all right, and the deacon opened his mouth and said:

"Widder Spooner, me an' you have known each other a long time."

"Yes, deacon."

"Long before either one of us was married."

"Yes."

"And I guess we allus sorter liked each other."

"Yes."

"And now Abe is dead and Martha is dead and we are lonesome, widder. Why shouldn't we?"

She waited, but he stopped right there. There was Sister Nancy. Hadn't he better sound her and see how she was going to take it? Yes, that would be the wisest way. He therefore began to talk about the drought and other things, and after working for another hour he went home. He didn't speak to Nancy—not on that subject. She was trying to get supper with green wood, and she was hopping mad. He split up a dry board for her and blew up the fire, but he had lived long enough to know that when a woman gets real mad she must have at least a day to get over it. Next morning Nancy was so chipper that he decided to take his chances without speaking to her on the subject.

In the afternoon the deacon did some more hoeing, and there was another talk on the steps. Yes, the Widow Spooner well remembered his taking her to spelling school in the old days. She remembered their sliding hills together; she could recall the red apples he used to give her.

"Happy days them was, widder—happy days," he sighed.

"Yes, they were."

"But now you are a widder and I am a widder."

"Yes."

"And both of us goldurned lonesome."

"I am sometimes very, very lonesome."

"But we needn't be, widder—we needn't be. S'posin'—"

"Well?"

He couldn't go ahead. The thought had just struck him that she might have a wooden leg or a stiff knee and would make that an excuse for not doing the washing and ironing. He could dimly remember hearing that she had fallen from an apple tree and broken a bone somewhere. He would wait and make inquiries. It thus came



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For those who suffer from heat, exhaustion, insomnia, poor stomachs or weak bowels, life during hot weather is made worth living by using a little genuine

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in the form of ginger soda, lemonade, milk-shake, egg-nog or tea. Delicious, refreshing and always healthful. Taken hot, Sanfords' Ginger stops cramps, pains, colds, chills and dangerous summer ills, quiets the nerves and promotes natural sleep.

A dash of Sanfords' Ginger in puddings, custards, ice cream and other desserts, lends a new snap and richness to the flavor. Sold by druggists and grocers everywhere. Look for the Owl Trade Mark. Test you get a cheap, worthless or even dangerous substitute.

about that he went home again with nothing decided. Now, the deacon was a great county fair man. He always had an exhibit of chickens, eggs or vegetables. He believed that if anything could save this world from the fate of Sodom it was the Methodist religion and a county fair held every October. At that very moment he was raising a prize cucumber to exhibit. It was only a foot long now, but it would be a rod in length before time for pulling.

Deacon Gray let a week go past without seeing the Widow Spooner. He got up one morning and stepped outdoors to inhale the fragrance of the air before sitting down to breakfast. About the first thing his eyes lighted on was a woman standing over his prize cucumber. It was the Widow Spooner. She had an ax on her shoulder, and her jaw was set.

"Why, widder, what does this mean?" asked the deacon as he sauntered out to her.

"You have the same ax asked me to marry you," she replied as she spat on her hands and flourished the ax.

"But not right out."

"But near enough. Deacon, when is it to be?"

"I can't say. What are you doing with the ax?"

"In two weeks, deacon, or I chop your prize cucumber in two!"

"Lordy, woman!"

"Do I chop?"

"You wouldn't go to chop that en?"

"Two weeks, deacon, or three or four? Speak quick!"

"Waal, say about three!"

And three it was, and though Nancy raised a fuss and had to be carried out and dumped over the fence, the couple have lived happily together for years.

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50c Work Shirts, now	- - -	29c
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45c Children's Shirts, -	- - -	37c

NECKWEAR

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50c Crochet Silk, now	- - -	43c
50c Summer Underwear, now	- - -	38c
25c Summer Underwear, now	- - -	18c

All Shoes at greatly reduced prices.

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SUPPORT FOR THE VATICAN

Catholics in Northern Spain Plan Demonstration

WILL TAKE PLACE, THEY SAY

Despite Ban of Government—Fully 100,000 to Take Part, It Is Declared—It Is Feared That Action May Result in Grave Disorders.

Madrid, Aug. 4.—The agitation among the Roman Catholic population in northern Spain, who are in great part aiding with the vatican in the pending conflict with the Spanish government, is steadily assuming larger proportions. The organizers of the proposed manifestation at San Sebastian against the cabinet of Premier Canalejas and its policy toward the vatican, declare that the demonstration will take place in spite of the refusal of the authorities to grant permission for it. They expect 100,000 church men to visit the summer capital and participate in the demonstration before the king's palace Aug. 7. The prohibition of the demonstration was issued. It is stated upon the representations of tradesmen, that this manifestation might easily develop into grave disorder.

Alfonso Talks With Premier Briand.

Paris, Aug. 4.—King Alfonso, who with his queen is the guest of the French republic, had a long conversation with Premier Briand Tuesday night. It is presumed that the religious situation in Spain formed a subject of discussion.

DOWRY IN HER STOCKING.

Mrs. Percy Procter Leaves Cincinnati for Europe.

Cincinnati, O., Aug. 4.—Young Mrs. Percy Procter left here for New York with a small fortune representing a part of her marriage dowry of \$40,000.

Her husband, who is a member of the soap family, did not appear for a final leave taking.

Early in the day Mrs. Procter came to the office of George W. Corman, her attorney, with the funds furnished by her husband's attorneys. At a hint in broken English, Mr. Corman and several reporters looked in another direction while Mrs. Procter put most of the funds into her stocking.

"It will be entirely safe that way," she declared in a relieved tone after she had finished. The elderly Mr. Corman blushed vividly when she kissed him at parting. She said she intended to sail from New York in two or three days for her home in France.

INQUIRY INTO WHEAT CORNER.

Begun by the Federal Grand Jury, Now in Session In Chicago.

Chicago, Aug. 4.—Preliminary federal investigation of the recent corner in July wheat was begun yesterday by the federal grand jury, which also is investigating the alleged beef trust, John C. Merrill, president of the Chicago board of trade, was questioned at length by United States District Attorney Edwin Sims and Special Assistant District Attorney James H. Wilkerson. As indicated previously by federal authorities the information sought yesterday was solely to give the attorneys material upon which to base a thorough examination into market conditions before another federal grand jury convenes later. Mr. Merrill was the only wheat corner witness examined.

"The logical, sensible thing to do is to correct our mistake—none but Republicans can correct it—and under the impulse of the sentiment, growing now by leaps and bounds everywhere, they will correct it and leave the Republican name and Republican pledge without a stain in all its wonderful history."

Speaking of conservation, this tribute was paid to the man of Oyster Bay:—

"In the abstract, Theodore Roosevelt was not the first apostle of the policy, but to him must be accorded the everlasting honor of planting it in the American mind, of making us all understand its tremendous importance, and of crystallizing it into the forms and practices of government."

Mr. Murdoch said to the Associated Press:—

"The significance of the overwhelming insurgent victory in Kansas is twofold.

"First, it is a complete repudiation of both Cannon and the system by which he has robbed the people of free government in the house. Scott, Miller and Alder were chairmen of important House committees, while Calderhead was on the ways and means committee. All were beaten because they subscribed to the Cannon system.

"Second, the Kansas insurgent victory is an effort by the Republicans of Kansas to say with emphasis to the nation that the Republican party of Kansas by endorsing Governor Stubbs and the Kansas insurgents in Congress stands for immediate and effective legislation, framed to drive special selfish interests out of control in American politics."

INSURGENTS IN FULL SWING

Iowa Republicans' Convention Progressive

BRANDS TARRIFF FAILURE

Senators Cummins and Dolliver and Insurgent Delegation at Washington Endorsed—Taft Only Mildly Endorsed.

Des Moines, Ia., Aug. 4.—Republican Iowa wrote herself a vigorously progressive body yesterday at a convention which was in an uproar most of the time.

Senators Cummins and Dolliver and the insurgent delegation at Washington were enthusiastically endorsed.

The new tariff law was branded as a failure in the light of the party pledge of 1908. President Taft receiving only a lukewarm endorsement.

A sop to harmony was flung out in the endorsement of the administration of Governor Carroll.

An attempt to use the steam roller and make the state central committee overwhelmingly progressive was called off, presumably at the hint of Senator Cummins.

Senator Cummins was temporary chairman; Senator Dolliver permanent chairman.

The progressive majority ranged close to three hundred on every question.

The resolutions committee was progressive, six to five.

The foregoing is a synopsis of the day's events. To it may be added cheers and jeers, applause and hisses, music and howls of discord.

The appearance and disappearance of the steam roller was one of the diverting incidents of the day. It came about through the insistence of the stand-pat members of the platform committee in demanding an unqualified endorsement of the Taft administration, the legislative acts of the regulars and hostility to Cummins and Dolliver. The progressives determined to exert a little pressure, just to show the minority which is running Republican politics in Iowa.

The primary law, which provides that members of the state central committee shall be chosen by the convention, was fastened upon as the means to this end. It was proposed to disregard the caucus selections of the first and ninth districts, which are stand-pat, and to have the convention substitute progressives in their places.

Attorney General Byers, as a chauffeur of the progressive steam roller, brought that engine into view with a motion that the convention proceed to the selection of the state central committee. Eventually, after much debate, Chairman Dolliver surprised everyone by ordering chauffeur Byers back to the garage, and the caucus nominees were confirmed. This, like the endorsement of Governor Carroll, was a concession to harmony.

What may have been an attempt to stampede the delegates in favor of the stalwart Republicans was made when former Congressman Elsworth Rominger hoisted a portrait of President Taft amid stand-pat cheers. But the other side answered with silence or jeers. Later, a progressive delegate exposed a picture of Roosevelt, occasioning a demonstration.

Senator Cummins began his speech on taking the chair by declaring: "Harmon yis like the poet; it is born and not made." Then he said that the primaries had declared the position of Iowa Republicans, and it would be folly to try and conceal it by compromising on a platform. He asserted that the Aldrich-Payne tariff was a direct repudiation of the platform on which Taft was elected president. He added:—

"The logical, sensible thing to do is to correct our mistake—none but Republicans can correct it—and under the impulse of the sentiment, growing now by leaps and bounds everywhere, they will correct it and leave the Republican name and Republican pledge without a stain in all its wonderful history."

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The Important Problem

confronting anyone in need of a laxative is not a question of a single action only, but of permanently beneficial effects, which will follow proper efforts to live in a healthful way, with the assistance of Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna, whenever it is required, as it cleanses the system gently yet promptly, without irritation and will therefore always have the preference of all who wish the best of family laxatives.

The combination has the approval of physicians because it is known to be truly beneficial, and because it has given satisfaction to the millions of well-informed families who have used it for many years past.

To get its beneficial effects, always buy the genuine manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co. only.

INSURGENTS ARE JUBILANT.

Nominate Six Out of Eight Kansas Congressmen.

Topeka, Kan., Aug. 4.—Insurgency is jubilant over the almost complete victory at the primaries Tuesday.

Six out of eight insurgent congressmen have been nominated in spite of everything the congressional organization in Washington and the regulars in Kansas could do to save their man. Their majority runs from 1,000 to 3,500.

Of the six stand-pat congressmen who were seeking re-nomination, only two are sure of being on the ticket this fall.

Victor Murdoch and E. H. Madison, insurgent leaders, had no opposition.

W. R. Stubbs for governor has been re-nominated with a majority over Thomas Wagstaff of about 2,000, or more than he had over Cy Leiland two years ago. Stubbs is an insurgent, Wagstaff a regular.

Governor Stubbs is considered a probable opponent of United States Senator Charles Curtis in 1912. Senator Curtis took part in the recent campaign in behalf of the regulars.

D. R. Anthony, regular, has been re-nominated for Congress in the first district. His majority over T. A. McNeal, insurgent, will be about 600.

In Oklahoma.

Guthrie, Okla., Aug. 4.—Insurgent Republican candidates for Congress in the primary election Tuesday were defeated in three Oklahoma districts in which definite returns have been obtained.

Incomplete returns indicate that the race between Lee Cruce and W. H. Murray for the Democratic nomination for governor was very close, with Cruce leading by a small majority.

Joseph McNeal of Guthrie, is running ahead of Thomas Ferguson for the Republican gubernatorial nomination.

Vic on the Victory.

Wichita, Kan., Aug. 4.—Victor Murdoch, the insurgent leader in Congress, in this city yesterday heard the news of the insurgent victory in Kansas Tuesday.

DELAY IN CHARLTON CASE.

Italian Government Given More Time to Demand Extradition of Prisoner.

Washington, Aug. 4.—Italy has not lost its legal right to demand the extradition of Porter Charlton, who is in the jail of Hudson County, N. J., charged with the murder of his wife, Mary Scott Castle Charlton, at Lake Como, Italy. The limit of forty days, fixed by the treaty between Italy and the United States to govern extradition cases, having expired yesterday, it now is held at the state department that Italy is entitled to an extension of time equal to that consumed by delays incident to legal processes for postponements initiated by counsel for the accused. No demand has been made upon this government thus far for Charlton and the matter is still in the courts for determination.

RURAL MORALS IMPROVE.

Conclusion Reached by Country Clergymen at Amherst.

Amherst, Mass., Aug. 4.—That morality in country places is on the increase was the decision reached by the conference of country clergymen in session under the auspices of the Church Federation of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The speakers also declared that gambling among church members was on the decrease.

A report of an epidemic of thieving among boys in a Cape Cod town, given by one of the clergymen, led Dr. Wilson to declare that "all boys were thieves at a certain age." One speaker declared that the records of the church for the last century "read like a police blotter."

WIRELESS INDICTMENT COMING.

Will Be Handed Down Against United Company, It Is Reported.

New York, Aug. 4.—It is understood that the regular federal grand jury has about completed its investigation of the government's complaint against the United Wireless company and that later in the day indictments charging the use of the mails in furtherance of a scheme to defraud investors in the company's stock, will be presented to Judge Hough in the criminal branch of the United States circuit court.

TAFT PLANS A REFORM

Would Reorganize Government Departments

EXPERTS TO WASHINGTON

To Make an Investigation—\$100,000 Appropriation to Go for Purpose. Land in Six States to Be Opened to Settlement in Fall.

Beverly, Mass., Aug. 4.—President Taft has taken the first steps in the plan for bringing about greater business efficiency in the different departments of the government and wide economies, by sending to Washington four sets of experts who are to make a preliminary study of the situation and submit a program for carrying forward the work. Some one of these plans, or perhaps parts of all of them, may be accepted.

The plans to be submitted, however, are to be in the nature of competitive bids. The president has been given an appropriation of \$100,000 for the purpose of reorganizing departmental methods. It is proposed that some executive officer in each department and independent bureau at Washington will be designated to serve on a commission which will co-operate with the experts in bringing about the big reform. The undertaking is voluminous, and the president wants to get it under way at the earliest possible moment. The inquiry will not be devoted so much to cutting off a clerk here and there, but to formulate an entirely new structure of methods, wherever present practice seems to demand such treatment. This is the first time that a president of the United States has had an appropriation to make inquiries of the kind now contemplated. In connection with the beginning of the work, the following statement was given out at executive offices:—

"The sundry civil bill for the fiscal year 1911 contains the following appropriations: To enable the president, by the employment of accountants and experts from official and private life to more effectively inquire into the methods of transacting the public business of the government in the several executive departments and other government establishments, with the view of inaugurating new or changing old methods of transacting such public business so as to attain greater efficiency and economy therein, and to ascertain and recommend in Congress what changes in law may be necessary to carry into effect such results of his inquiry as cannot be carried into effect by executive action alone and for each and every purpose necessary hereunder, including the employment of personal services in Washington, District of Columbia, or elsewhere, \$100,000.

"While a comprehensive study of this matter will be delayed until the return of the president to Washington, some progress is now being made. A large number of organization experts have been recommended for this work and suggestions in writing are being freely invited by the president. Among others who have been asked to submit a written program are: Arthur Young & Co., the accountants who have been at work for a year in the treasury department; Major Charles Hine, the organization expert of the Harriman lines; Gunn Richards & Co., who have done similar work for the interior department in the past, and Marwick Mitchell & Co., who have devised a cost-accounting system for the navy."

The president already has taken up the subject of the department estimates for the next fiscal year and has served notice upon the different department chiefs that their figures must be held down to the lowest notch consistent with good service. Mr. Taft's position is said to be the same as it was last year on this point, when the departmental estimates were cut several millions of dollars.

TROOPS LEAVE THE CITY.

Nearly One-Half of the 3200 Militiamen to Be Sent From Columbus.

Columbus, O., Aug. 4.—Nearly one-half of the 3200 militiamen on duty in Columbus will be sent home to-day on advice of Mayor Marshall, and the National Guard officers, Governor Harmon acquiescing.

This Prescription has, for over 20 years, been curing delicate, weak, pain-wracked women, by the hundreds of thousands and this too in the privacy of their homes without their having to submit to indelicate questionings and offensively repugnant examinations.

Sick women are invited to consult Dr. Pierce by letter free. All correspondence held as strictly confidential. Address World's Dispensary Medical Association, R. V. Pierce, M. D., President, Buffalo, N. Y.

Dr. Pierce's Great Family Doctor Book, The People's Common Sense Medical Adviser, newly revised up-to-date edition—1800 pages, answers in plain English hosts of delicate questions which every woman, single or married, ought to know about. Sent free, in plain wrapper to any address on receipt of 21 one-cent stamps to cover mailing only, or in cloth binding for 31 stamps.

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All Skin Irritation and Odors caused by Perspiration or Heat are speedily removed by



a skillfully medicated Toilet Powder which is no more like ordinary Talcum Powder than cream is like skimmed milk. Being perfectly harmless to the most delicate skin and possessing unequalled healing and soothing power. Look for the name E. S. SYKES on every box. None genuine without it.

Magazine Review

Jane Addams Tells the Story of a Tragedy Among the Poor.

Miss Jane Addams, among many other similar incidents, tells the following story, in the August American Magazine, as illustrating the problems that confront the immigrant, which, unsolvable to him, too often result in his ruin and downfall:—

"A Bohemian, whose little girl attended classes at Hull-house, in one of his periodic drunken spells had literally almost choked her to death, and later had committed suicide when in delirium tremens. His poor wife stayed a week at Hull-house after the disaster, until a new tenement could be arranged for her, and one day she showed me a gold ring her husband had made for their betrothal, which exhibited the most exquisite workmanship. She said that in the old country he had been a goldsmith, but that in America all he had done for twenty years was to shovel coal in a furnace room of a large manufacturing plant; that, whenever she saw one of his 'restless fits' which preceded his drunken periods 'coming on,' if she could provide him with a bit of meat and persuade him to stay at home and work at it he was all right and the time passed without disaster, but that 'nothing else would do it.' This story threw a flood of light upon the dead man's struggle and on the stupid maladjustment which broke him down. Why had we never been told? Why had our interest in the remarkable musical ability of his child blinded us to the hidden artistic ability of the father? We had forgotten that a long-established occupation may form the very foundations of moral life, that the art with which a man has soled his toil may be the salvation of his uncertain temperament."

More Evidence About "Barbarous Mexico."

An American woman who has been a trained nurse in the city of Mexico for twelve years, writes of her experiences in the August American Magazine, and her evidence in support of the articles about "Barbarous Mexico" that have been appearing in this periodical, is most compelling and convincing. She says:

"I have been both angered and amused by those persons who burst blithely into print with the statement that they 'have been all over Mexico and never saw anything that justified your statements.' Doubtless it is true. They may have had weighty reasons for not seeing anything which might interfere with the development of certain enterprises, or the investment of foreign capital in Mexico, or they may have been blind to realities, as I was during the first five years of my residence in the city of Mexico, oblivious to the fact that I dwelt in the heart of a smoldering volcano, never dreaming that the suppressed fires of anguished revolt burned anywhere in all that wonderful, quiet land. And even after seeing and hearing things for five years it required an accident to set me on the way to understanding. So I can understand that many may dwell long in Mexico and return without having seen the things that have been before their eyes all the time.

"I have no inclination to decry Mexico. I hope some day to make my home there again, and through all the remaining years of my life. The educated natives are the most charming managed persons I ever have met, and even the most lowly poor might give the average American lessons in true courtesy. But in this beautiful, rich land human beings are bought and sold like cattle, or tricked into servitude which is slavery worse than that which existed anywhere in the South in anti-Bellum days.

"Barbarous Mexico? Well, I would not call it that. Barbarous would not tolerate such things."

Fortune Telling

Does not take into consideration the one essential to woman's happiness—womanly health. The woman who neglects her health is neglecting the very foundation of all good fortune. For without health love loses its lustre and gold is but dross.

Womanly health when lost or impaired may generally be regained by the use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription.

This Prescription has, for over 20 years, been curing delicate, weak, pain-wracked women, by the hundreds of thousands and this too in the privacy of their homes without their having to submit to indelicate questionings and offensively repugnant examinations.

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